

Serial No. 09/965,538
December 22, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated September 26, 2003
Page 2 of 11

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element comprising:

a thermistor element body including a top surface and a bottom surface;

electrodes disposed on the top surface and the bottom surface of the thermistor element body;

lower and upper terminals arranged such that each of the electrodes is connected with a respective one of the lower and upper terminals, and each of the lower and upper terminals is extended downward; wherein

said lower terminal includes a junction portion contacting said thermistor element body, a short vertical-leg portion bent vertically in a downward direction at an angle of about 90° relative to the surface of said thermistor element body such that the short vertical-leg portion extends substantially perpendicular to the surface of the thermistor element body over substantially the entire length of the short vertical-leg portion, and a lower-end portion which extends substantially parallel to the junction portion and substantially perpendicular to the short vertical-leg portion;

said short vertical-leg portion is directly connected and extends directly between the junction portion and the lower-end portion;

the junction portion of the lower terminal is mechanically attached to one of the electrodes; and

said vertical-leg portion of the lower terminal is located in the vicinity of the center of the thermistor element body so as to be spaced inwardly from a periphery of the thermistor element body.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Serial No. 09/965,538
December 22, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated September 26, 2003
Page 3 of 11

Claim 3 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein a junction portion of the upper terminal and one of the electrodes are arranged to overlap each other at a central portion of the thermistor element body.

Claim 4 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein the thermistor element body has a substantially round button shape.

Claim 5 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein each of the electrodes includes a nickel layer and a silver layer.

Claim 6 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein each of the terminals has a flat-plate shaped configuration and is made of stainless steel.

Claim 7 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein a lower end of the vertical-leg portion is bent to define a horizontal connection portion.

Claim 8 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein the lower terminal has a junction portion connected with one of the electrodes at a location only near the central portion of the thermistor element body.

Claim 9 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein the upper terminal includes a vertical-leg portion that is longer than the vertical-leg portion of the lower terminal.

Serial No. 09/965,538

December 22, 2003

Reply to the Office Action dated September 26, 2003

Page 4 of 11

Claim 10 (original): A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 9, wherein a lower end of the vertical-leg portion of the upper terminal is bent to define a horizontal connection portion.